Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 04864 201649Z ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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R 201250Z AUG 77 FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2876

CONFIDENTIAL AMMAN 4864

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: OGEN, OTRA

SUBJECT: PROPOSED TRAVEL

FOR NEA ONLY - ATHERTON FROM PICKERING

- 1. HAVE GIVEN MORE THOUGHT TO POSSIBILITY OF COMING BACK SAY FOR TEN DAYS JUST PRIOR TO FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING NOW SET FOR AROUND MID-SEPTEMBER.
- 2. LIKELY OCCASION WOULD BE TO BRING BACK WHATEVER PAPER GOJ PRODUCES IN RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST TO BE FOLDED INTO WHATEVER EFFORT WE ARE MAKING. CONCEIVABLY THIS COULD BE AS LATE AS SEPTEMBER 7 OR 8 SINCE KING WILL BE IN LONDON UNTIL AUGUST 25 AND IN FRANCE FROM SEPTEMBER 2-6 AND IS NOT LIKELY TO HAVE A PAPER READY FOR US UNTIL THEN. SUCH TIMING WOULD ALSO ALLOW FOR PLANNED CONFRONTATION STATE AND ARAB LEAGUE FM MEETINGS TO TAKE PLACE IN CAIRO IN FIRST WEEKS OF SEPTEMBER, PROBABLY THE MINIMUM NECESSARY ARAB ACT OF COORDINATION REQUIRED BEFORE GIVING US ANY FURTHER IDEAS.

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3. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY VALUABLE FOR ME (AND THE OTHER THREE --EILTS, MURPHY, LEWIS) TO RETURN TOGETHER AND AT ABOUT SAME TIME. I HAVE ALWAYS FOUND THAT MEETINGS WITH THE OTHERS TENDED TO PRODUCE FOR ALL OF US A SENSE OF THE PROBLEM AND WHAT IS GOING ON THAT TRANSCENDED BILATERAL DIS-

CUSSIONS OR CABLE EXCHANGE. WE HAVE NOT DONE THIS FOR OVER A YEAR. IN ADDITION, WE MAY BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE IDEAS TO YOUR OWN EFFORTS WHICH COULD NOT BE WORKED OUT AT A DISTANCE. FINALLY, OUR OWN CREDIBILITY WITH OUR GOVERNMENTS, AND OUR CAPACITY TO OFFER INTERPRETATION AND EXPLORATION OF WHAT WE ARE DOING AT FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETINGS NOT LIKELY TO BE LARGE UNLESS WE ARE SEEN TO BE INVOLVED AND GET A SENSE OF THE SUBSTANCE FROM YOU ALL IN WASHINGTON.

- 4. THERE ARE FOR ME ALSO SOME BILATERIAL ISSUES -- MAQARIN AND POTASH--ON WHICH I THINK I NEED BADLY TO TOUCH BASE IN WASHINGTON IN AID, OMB, AND ELSEWHERE AND TIMING OF MID-SEPTEMBER WOULD SEEM ABOUT RIGHT.
- 5. PLEASE LET ME KNOW YOUR REACTIONS. PICKERING

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